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A MONTH IN THE MIDLANDS

BY G. BOWERS

BRADBURY, AGNEW, & CO., 8, 9, 10, BOUVERIE STREET, FLEET STREET, E.C.

1874.

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SHOUT
SHARE
IT

JOHN A. SEAVERNS

A MONTH IN THE MIDLANDS.

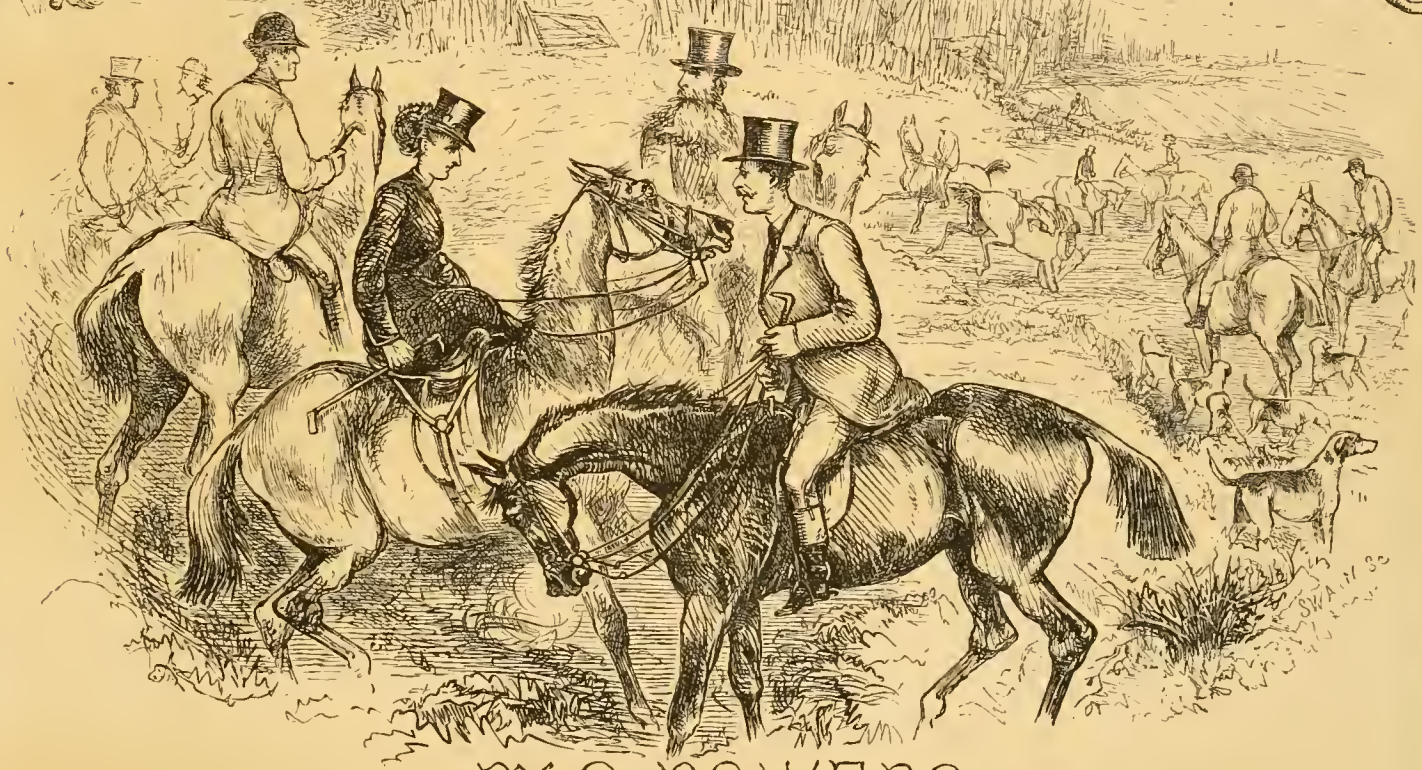
LONDON :
BRADBURY, AGNEW, & CO., PRINTERS, WHITEFRIARS.

The First Week in November.

A VERY PLEASANT GATHERING AND BREAKFAST AT "THE SQUIRE'S." HAROLD QUORN KNOWS EVERYBODY; DICK PYTCHLEY CONTENTS HIMSELF WITH A CIGAR.

Frontispiece.

A MONTH IN THE MIDLANDS



BY G. BOWERS

BRADBURY, AGNEW, & CO., 10, BOUVERIE STREET, FLEET STREET, E.C.

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A MONTH IN THE MIDLANDS.

(Frontispiece)—BREAKFAST AT THE SQUIRE'S.

Time:—The First Week in November. A very pleasant gathering. Harold Quorn knows everybody. Dick Pytchley contents himself, for the present, with a cigarette. Horror of the Master at seeing a puppy, in couples with an old hound, come out in mistake.

I.

GOING TO COVERT.

RATHER a rough turn-out of horses, and no end of urchins at the gates.

Going to "Cover."

DICK'S DOG-CART IS GREATLY ADMIRED AT THE GATES.

II.

THE FIRST MEET OF THE SEASON.

THE Ladies in carriages, accustomed to Leicestershire, think it rather a dull proceeding,—and Mr. Pytchley's coat not at all fit for "the Shires."

First Meet of the Season.

THE LADIES IN CARRIAGES, ACCUSTOMED TO LEICESTERSHIRE, THINK IT RATHER A DULL PROCEEDING.

III.

STUDIES IN THE FIELD.

OVER,——Half over,——Well over.

OVER;—HALF OVER;—WELL OVER.

IV.

GONE AWAY.

A HARD-RIDING young Lady, in an old-fashioned habit, but with undeniable "hands."

A FAST THING ACROSS COUNTRY.

V.

GONE TO GROUND.

SMOKING out a Fox—an unsportsman-like practice, which we hope soon to see abolished.

SMOKING HIM OUT!

VI.

EIGHT P.M. AND EIGHT A.M.

"FOURTEEN miles to covert to-morrow, old fellow! Mind you're up in time!"

"Please, sir, it's a-freezin' hard and has been snowing all night!"

8 P.M. A Dis-appointment. 8 A.M.

Dick.—"FOURTEEN MILES TO 'COVER' IN THE MORNING, OLD FELLOW; MIND YOU'RE UP IN TIME."

Servant.—"PLEASE, SIR, IT'S A FREEZIN' HARD, AND HAS BEEN SNOWING ALL NIGHT!"

VII.

EXERCISE IN A FROST.

THE straw ring and extra clothing for a fortnight.

Exercise in a Frost.

Stable Boy (*rebuked by Head Groom*).—"GO STEADY! BLESS'D IF I CAN MAKE 'EM WALK! THEY PREFERS JUMPIN' THIS WEATHER."

VIII.

THE DAY AFTER A THAW.

FARMER GRIPPER wishes he could swim home.

The Day after a Thaw.

FARMER GRIPPER BEGINS TO WISH HE COULD SWIM HOME.

IX.

MILITARY STEEPLE-CHASES IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD.

A LITTLE difficulty about starting.

A LITTLE DIFFICULTY ABOUT STARTING.

X.

THE WATER JUMP.

AFTER going gamely all round, the favourite refuses, to the dismay of her backers.

The Brook Jump.

After going gamely all round, the favourite refuses, to the dismay of her backers.

XI.

THE FINISH.

LITTLE SWOFFER wins on "Blazeaway."

The Finish.

LITTLE SWOFFER WINS ON "BLAZEAWAY."

XII.

HIRED FOR THE DAY.

A DOUBTFUL two guineas' worth.

Hired for the Day.

A DELIGHTFUL ANIMAL, WELL WORTH TWO GUINEAS, WHO PREFERS THE HIGH ROAD TO THE SOFTEST TURF, AND DECLINES FENCES ALTOGETHER.

XIII.

A CONVENIENT CHECK.

TAKING it easily.

DICK, IN THE DISTANCE, BEGINS TO PERCEIVE WHY HAROLD INSISTED UPON THIS LOCALITY FOR THEIR HUNTING-QUARTERS.

XIV.

DEAD BEAT.

THE end of a fast forty minutes.

THE END OF A FAST FORTY MINUTES.

XV.

A KILL IN THE OPEN.

THE last good thing of the season.

A Kill in the Open.

THE LAST GOOD THING OF THE SEASON.

XVI.

AT THE HUNT BALL.

A GREAT crush, with as many dowagers as diamonds.

A GREAT CRUSH, AND ONLY SEATS FOR THE DOWAGERS.

ON THE STAIRCASE.

HAROLD makes strong running.

AFTER SUPPER.

DICK has to be set right in the Lancers.

On the Staircase.

HAROLD QUORN MAKES STRONG RUNNING.

After Supper.

DICK HAS TO BE SET RIGHT IN THE LANCERS:

XVIII.

QUITS.

BUT has the pleasure of piloting his partner next morning.

BUT HAS THE PLEASURE OF SHOWING HIS PARTNER THE WAY NEXT MORNING.

XIX.

THE "COLLAR-BONER."

A WELL-KNOWN fence, which wise people avoid.

HAROLD HAS A REGULAR CROPPER, BUT PICKS HIMSELF UP AND CATCHES THE HOUNDS.

XX.

GOING LIKE STEAM.

THE Flyers of the Hunt only are "placed."

LADIES MUST TAKE CARE OF THEMSELVES.

A WET RIDE HOME.

A MISERABLE proceeding.

RATHER MORE EXCITING.

GETTING your boots off afterwards.

A Wet Ride Home.

NOT A LIVELY PROCEEDING.

Rather more Exciting.

GETTING YOUR BOOTS OFF AFTERWARDS.

XXII.

SOCIETY.

DICK is never popular with ladies, but he quite does for himself one evening at the Rectory.

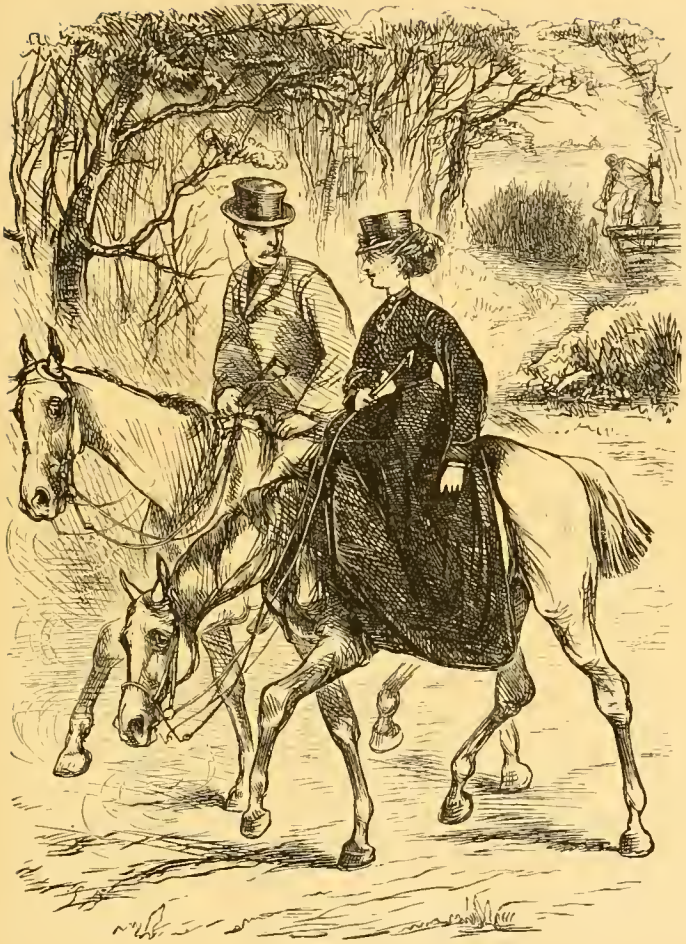
DICK IS NEVER SO POPULAR AS HAROLD AMONG LADIES; BUT HE QUITE DOES FOR HIMSELF ONE EVENING AT THE RECTORY!

THE END OF THE SEASON.

A TÊTE-À-TÊTE towards home.

THE FIRST CROQUET.

HAROLD (who used to hate it so!).



A DANGEROUS RIDE HOME.

TWO OF THE PARTY ARE RATHER IDLE.

XXIV.

LOOKING FORWARD.

DICK foresees how his friend will be driven to the meets next season; and as yet, feels thankful *he* is fancy free.

DICK FORESEES HOW HAROLD WILL BE DRIVEN TO THE "MEETS" OF NEXT SEASON.

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